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TAGS: [EPET](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SU](#)
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN SUDAN: WHITE NILE AND TOTAL SHOWING
THEIR CARDS IN THE PETROLEUM GAME

REF: KHARTOUM 01188

Classified By: CGJ R. Whitehead, Reason: Section 1.4 (b) and (d)

Showing their Hands

¶1. (C) CG encountered White Nile Petroleum, Ltd. (WNL) Managing Director Phil Ward on June 7. Ward said that a UK court had ruled that both WNL and Total must disclose their records to the court and to each other. Ward predicted that Total, which must divulge records dating from 1980, had burned its bridges with the GoSS by forcing the issue.

Tough Times in Bor

¶2. (C) Ward said that things were not going especially well for WNL. He had been under pressure from WNL executives in the UK about excessive expenditures to keep the operation moving. He complained that the situation did not lend itself to economies. WNL had engaged 200 SPLA as a protection force, and they were demanding salaries, food, fuel, and the use of WNL vehicles, but the protection force afforded WNL scant protection. Ward said that WNL workers had taken fire from thirty meters from Murle militiamen) the protectors seemed incapable of protecting. He said that he could not afford for any of his staff to be killed) this outcome would be catastrophic for WNL stock prices.

¶3. (C) Ward was dismissive of Total. He said that he had been in Vice President Machar,s office with French Ambassador Robichon, who was accorded a meeting that lasted just ten minutes. He was equally dismissive of the Moldovan company Askom,s operation, which he called &amateurish.8

Summary

¶4. (C) It is not clear if either Total or WNL, the GoSS or Khartoum, will benefit from the UK ruling. If disclosure occurs in due course, however, it will serve to demystify who signed what under what terms, and when.
HUME